

Big Sky Libraries

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Montana State Library [MSL]

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Legislative Update – Budget News

New proposal - MSL's budget hearing started on January 8 in front of the Education and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittees. These subcommittees heard the Commission's request for \$400,000 to purchase a license to a statewide database. The Education Subcommittee, which has the authority to appropriate Coal Tax Revenue for the State Library, approved MSL's request.

Base budget – The subcommittee also approved Statewide Library Resources' base budget and increases. However, the members denied one Decision Package (DP) in the Natural Resource Information System's budget. MSL plans to ask the House Appropriations Committee to consider this DP when they meet in late February.

Budget next steps – The full House Appropriations Committee hears all agencies' budgets beginning March 2, 1999. Of course, the Senate also must approve the State's budget and the Governor must sign the budget bill.

Commission Sponsored Legislation

HB 107 – Sponsored by Rep. Linda McCulloch. This bill allows cities or counties to ask voters to approve an increase in the library's maximum mill levy for a time specified on the ballot. The bill also allows cities and counties to ask voters to approve bonds for bookmobiles and remodeling library buildings. The House Local Government Committee approved the bill, as did the full House. HB 107 is assigned to the Senate Local Government Committee where it awaits a hearing.

HB 125 – Sponsored by Rep. Royal Johnson. This bill allows all types of libraries to join federations and disallows some types of interlibrary loans for reimbursement. The House Education Committee approved the bill as did the full House. Assigned to the Senate Education Committee, the hearing is scheduled for March 8, 1999.

HB 152 – Sponsored by Rep. Shiell Anderson. This bill would per-

Calendar

Visit our web calendar at: <http://msl.state.mt.us/calendar.html>

- March 12-13** --Montana Library Association [MLA] Public Library Division retreat, Parmly Billings Library.
Contact: Jim Peters, Parmly Billings Library-jpeters@billings.lib.mt.us - 406-657-8251 - 406-657-8254 (fax)
- March 19-20** -- MLA Public Library Division Retreat, in Helena [featuring Internet training]. Contact: Jim Peters,
Parmly Billings Library, jpeters@billings.lib.mt.us - 406-657-8251 (voice) - (406)657-8254 (fax)
- April 14** -- Montana State Library Commission Meeting, MSL Conference Room, Contact: Amanda Broadwater, 406-444-3384
- April 27-30** -- Cataloging Workshop, at MSU-Bozeman. Contact: Lynn Dickey, WLN, 1-800-342-5956 ext. 4036
- June 9** -- Montana State Library Commission Meeting, MSL Conference Room, Contact: Amanda Broadwater, 406-444-3384
- June 13-16** -- Mountain Plains Library Association [MPLA]/MLA Joint Meeting, "Making Certain It Goes On," at Big Sky, MT. Contact: Alice Meister, Bozeman Public Library, 406-582-2400

A Word From Our State Librarian



I look forward to new experiences in which I can hone skills and learn new things. I have been fortunate to have such experiences during the legislative session. The following are a few of the lessons that I have learned or learned again since January 4.

I learned that legislators work very hard on all issues, even the most esoteric or mundane. For example, during a two hour meeting, the House Local Government Committee, discussed several bills. One would require more members of a health district board. One would permit an energy supply program. The third would set cheaper water hook up fees and the last two bills concerned libraries. The members of the committee paid close attention to the testimony and asked good questions based on the policy implications of the bills. Legislators work long hours hearing and studying a wide range of public policy issues, most of these mundane and not apt to be reported in the media.

I learned again that legislators listen closely to their constituents. This was especially evident in the hearing concerning MSL's request for funds to purchase a statewide license to a periodical database. Almost every legislator who spoke referred to hearing about the project from a local constituent. The success of this request was due to your work contacting your legislator before the session and during the session. By the way, remember to thank them for their support after they return home.

The Montana library community wants to participate in this process and can influence it. Although the media reports that citizens are disillusioned and alienated from the political process, this is not true of Montana librarians and trustees, who display a great interest in the state legislative process. Over the last six weeks, I have talked to many librarians and trustees about legislative matters. Many of these folks call their legislators by a first name, have more than a passing familiarity with detailed and esoteric library legislation, and do not hesitate to contact the legislators to ask for their support. These three things add up to a powerful voice in Helena. I've learned never to discount the impact of the library community.

I am privileged to be representing your concerns in the legislative process. Your involvement makes legislators interested in library issues and makes this part of my job easier. Thanks to you all for the opportunity to keep learning.

ILL - Use Your NUC

It is a good practice to include your NUC (National Union Catalog) code on your return address, when you request an interlibrary loan [ILL] from another Montana library. More and more libraries use the code to keep track of libraries they lend to and use the code when requesting ILL reimbursement.

All libraries that contribute holdings to WLN's (Western Library Network's) shared catalog have unique NUC codes assigned to them by the Library of Congress. You can find your NUC codes in the "Montana Library Directory," the "WLN Membership Directory," the LASERCAT holdings on-screen or by calling MSL at 800-338-5087.

If you don't have a NUC code you can get one for free by contacting Randall K. Barry at the Library of Congress: rbar@loc.gov. Include: 1) your library's name and address and 2) the name of a contact person and his/her phone number or e-mail address. Barry hopes to have the entire current list of 27,000 library codes available on the web soon.

Karen's Schedule:

April 2 - Tamarack Meeting
 April 14 - Commission Meeting, MSL, Helena
 April 15 - Pathfinder Meeting
 May 1-5 - COSLA-ALA Legislative Day, Washington, D.C.
 June 9 - Commission Meeting, MSL, Helena

1999 Directory Changes

Page 10-Bridger Public Library-Hours: M-W 1-5p

Page 14-Fairfield Public Library-Director's E-Mail: fplib@3rivers.net

Page 18-Columbia Falls Branch Library, Library Tech. Assist.: Renee Gnam

Page 19 - Whitefish Branch Library, Library Tech. Assist.: Renee Gnam

Page 26-Thompson-Hickman Co. Library, Virginia City-Director's Name Omitted: Joanne Erdall

Page 31 - Billings Senior High School E-Mail: nkirish@mcn.net, NUC Code: MtBilS

Page 56 - Sidney High School-Fax No: 406-482-7438

Page 65-New Phone No: 406-377-3396, Fax: 406-377-8132

Page 71 - Montana Power Company Law Library, Butte - Library Tech/ILL Contact: Kathy Birkenbuel
 Contact Diane Gunderson, Data Coordinator, with corrections, additions, and/or deletions. Phone: 406-444-5349, Fax: 406-444-5612, E-Mail: dmgrande@msl.state.mt.us.

Montana Talking Book Library

"Complements to Richard Smith, a great reader." Words of appreciation written by one of the patrons of the Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) for Richard's reading of Forgotten People: A Year Among the Hutterites, by Michael Holzach. Richard, one of the narrators in the MTBL's Recording Program at the Montana State Prison, has received other notes of praise on books he has recorded. There are many tasks that volunteers for MTBL perform, including narrating, monitoring and reviewing of recordings; tape and machine inspecting; and talking book pulling and re-shelving. Volunteers and staff give of their time and talent in order "that all may read."

In September, the MTBL celebrated its 30th anniversary with a "bash" in the Capitol Rotunda. Before 1968, Montana patrons were served by the Washington State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

The MTBL, a program of the Montana State Library, serves blind, low-vision, physically handicapped, and reading disabled patrons across Montana. It is the only library of its kind in Montana and has over 2,500 patrons. This includes over 100 schools, many convalescent homes, assisted living and independent care facilities, hospitals and hospice houses. The MTBL loans books and magazines in a variety of formats and provides reference service, information referral and interlibrary loans to its patrons. Catalogs which list all the books and magazines in the collection, bimonthly announcements of new books and a library newsletter are also part of the service. Eligible readers may borrow from many categories of reading materials such as bestsellers, classics, mysteries, westerns, poetry, history, sports, science, crafts, political science, and religion. Also, the MTBL recording program records and makes available books by Montana authors and/or about Montana. All materials and equipment are provided at no charge and are mailed "Free Matter" both to and from its readers.

MTBL could not provide its services without the many dedicated volunteers and professionals who support its programs...people such as Richard Smith.

My Internship at MSL

Sarah McHugh

I am in the process of getting a Master of Library Science degree through a distance learning program at Syracuse University in Syracuse, NY. Work toward the degree consists of on-campus summer institutes that are one to four weeks in length, regular semester-long classes that begin with four day campus residencies and continue through the use of an on-line classroom environment and a required 150 hour internship. I plan to graduate in August.

I chose MSL for my internship because I haven't worked in this type of library and was interested in what kinds of service this library offers. The projects I've worked on have been very educational. I've put together two science distance learning programs, worked with Suzy Holt to develop an evaluation tool to assess the library needs of Montana's state agencies, and examined Internet Acceptable Use Policies of Montana public libraries. The people at MSL have been my greatest resource and have made this internship very enjoyable.

Good Byes

Mabel M. Brewer passed away peacefully February 17, 1999 at the age of 90. She served as Library Director of the Flathead County Library from 1968 to 1980, before that for the UM Mansfield Library and MSL, and was a Lifetime Member of the Montana Library Association.

Bill Cochran, Director of the Parmly Billings Library, leaves Montana in March to take up the position of Director of the Aurora Public Library in Illinois. He will be greatly missed.

Magi Malone, MSL Technology Librarian, accepted a position at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings. Magi will be working 10 hours a week until April 16 for MSL to provide support on the E-Rate process. Good luck Magi.

Alberta "Birdie" Blanton, Readers Advisor for the Montana Talking Book Library, announced her retirement, effective the end of April. Happy retirement to Birdie, we will miss her very much.

Book Reviews

So You're Going to Run a Library: A Library Management Primer. By David Sutton, 1995. Call # - 025.120 SUTTON – A starting point and overview for people with little or no library background of how to provide library services, this book explains the "hows & whys" of library management. Topics include staff, collections, reference, evaluations, budgeting, selecting equipment and provision of services.

Children & the Internet: Guidelines for Developing Public Library Policy, Public Library Association, 1998. Call # - 025.0408 CHILDREN – A useful tool for library staff and library boards, this publication discusses the complicated issue of providing Internet services to children. Chapters include censorship challenges, the trustee perspective, guidelines, a resource list for developing Internet policies and a question and answer section on the ALA Council Resolution on Filtering Software and Communications Decency Act. An appendix contains sample policies.

Government Information on the Internet. Greg Notess, 1997. Call # - 025.04 NOTESS – Greg Notess, of the MSU Library created a book with excellent information and highly accessible indexes and lists. The table of contents has entries by topics such as census, business and economics, environment and health sciences, while the various indexes provide access by SuDoc number, title, agency acronym and title, and subject. Each entry gives the sponsoring agency, primary access and subject headings. Some entries include a site sum-

mary, and SuDoc numbers for publications available online. This book is a concise, centralized starting point for accessing the vast amount of government information on the Internet.

Genreflecting: A Guide to Reading Interests in Genre Fiction, 4th ed. Diana Tixier Herald, 1995. Call # - R 016.813 HERALD – A handy source for times when a library user says "I love Tony Hillerman, but I've read all his stuff, who else can you recommend?" The book provides lists of authors by genre, and by series main character. It included subject, title and author indexes. Each genre is broken down into themes, types and topics. The topics section includes bibliographies, anthologies, history and criticism, background, publishers and journals, helping make it a comprehensive readers advisory source.

(Legislative Update – Continued from page 1)

mit library districts. After much discussion and some amendments in the House Taxation Committee, this bill was approved. On February 2, the House discussed the bill for 48 minutes, then on second reading voted 41 to 58 against. February 3, on third reading, the bill was defeated by a vote of 49 to 51. The bill is dead.

Other Library-Related Legislation

HB 223 – Sponsored by Rep. Bob Lawson. This bill would have allowed cities and counties to have either five or seven member library boards. Representative Lawson asked the House Local Government Committee to table the bill after its hearing.

HB 376 – Sponsored by Rep. Alan Walters. This bill would have required school boards to install filters on all computers with Internet access. The House Education Committee tabled the bill.

HB 332 – Sponsored by Senator Pete Ekegren. This bill would have prohibited state and local governments from offering telecommunication, Internet, or cable-TV services in competition with private business. The Senate Business and Labor Committee tabled the bill.

Cates Scholarship

MLA is accepting applications for a \$500.00 Cates Scholarship to be awarded at the 1999 Joint MLA/MPLA Conference in June. Established to provide financial support for MLA members who are seeking graduate education in library and/or information science, the criteria for the scholarship include: potential for academic excellence; successful employment; leadership potential; communication skills; and service attitude.

Contact: Diane Gunderson, MSL, 406-444-5349, e-mail: dmgunde@msl.state.mt.us. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than May 14, 1999.

Notes From MSL

Commission adopts Public Library Standards: At its December meeting, the Commission adopted a revised set of Montana Public Library Standards. The adoption is the culmination of nine-months of work by MLA's Public Library Division's Committee on Standards and MSL staff. Details of the Commission's action follow.

The Commission adopted the standards document as presented with the understanding that MSL staff will include introductory and explanatory material before distributing copies to each public librarian and trustee.

They made a subset of standards mandatory to receive state and federal funding starting in Fiscal Year 2001 (July 1, 2000), including:

CThe Library is legally established under Montana law according to Title 7, or sections 22-1301 through 22-1-317, MCA.

CThe Board conforms to all applicable state, local, and federal laws, rules and regulations.

CLibraries that serve more than 25,000 employ a library director with a graduate degree in library or information science or its equivalent.

CLibraries that serve less than 25,000 employ a library director who is, or will be within three years of hire, certified by the state library.

CPaid staff persons are present during 90% of all open hours.

CThe library submits the Montana Public Library Annual Statistical Report to the Montana State Li-

brary.

CThe library is open during the week at least the following minimum hours. Many libraries ex-

Population	Minimum	Desirable Hours	# of Libraries Not Meeting
Less than 3,500	15	25-40	4
More than 3,500	30	40-50	5
More than 10,000	40	40-60	1
More than 25,000	50	60+	2

ceed this minimum because the community, board, and director recognize that the number of hours of public service leads to greater use by the public.

A library with more than one service outlet may use the total non-overlapping hours of all the outlets to meet the minimum requirement.

- The library has a telephone and answers telephone inquiries.

The Commission also directed the State Library staff to write draft administrative rules and/or policies to implement the standards by the June 1999 Commission meeting, and to thank the Public Library Division's Committee on Standards on behalf of the Commission.

Finally, the Commission directed the Library Development Division to help libraries that do not meet the standards to do so by July 1, 2000.

New NRIS/Heritage Product

A new NRIS/Heritage product, the Montana Rare Plant Guide posted on the Internet, will be premiered at the 1999 Montana Plant Conservation Conference, March 25-26. The Guide features about 350 Montana plant species of special concern, including all federally threatened and sensitive species, complete with photographs, illustrations, species' and habitat description, distribution map, and related references. The Internet address for accessing the Guide is: <http://nriss.state.mt.us/mtnhp>. From there click on plants, and then Field Guide.

The 1999 Conference will be held in Pablo, MT at the Consolidated Salish-Kootenai College. The agenda includes a cultural plants theme and session. The Montana Natural Heritage Program co-sponsors the Conference, which will bring together botanists, educators, and others interested in conserving Montana native plants and natural areas. For a copy of the conference brochure with agenda information, contact: Bonnie Heidel, MTNHP, 406-444-0536, or Virgil Dupuis, of CSK College 406-675-4800 extension 306.

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Karen Strege, State Librarian

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Spotlight: Diane Gunderson, Data Coordinator

Diane Gunderson joined the State Law Library staff on February 17, 1987 to work as the administrative assistant for the Montana Faxnet Project. Less than two years later she joined the Library Development Program at the Montana State Library. Diane is currently the Data Coordinator for the Library Development Program at MSL. Responsible for the *Montana Library Directory*, *Public Library Statistical Report(s)*, library files, and the Certification Program, she also serves as Montana's national representative for the Federal/State Cooperative System (FSCS). Diane is quick to remind all of us that our mission is to serve Montana Librarians as they serve the information needs of all Montana citizens. What would we do without Diane? We would not be able to communicate with our librarians and we would not be able to prove our worth to the governing bodies of our libraries.

Over and above her official duties, Diane keeps up the staff scrapbooks, bulletin board, coordinates the annual Christmas party, summer picnic/ball game, and Taco Tuesday. What would we do without Diane? Our lives would be dull and uneventful!

Before Diane joined us in the library world she

worked at the College of Great Falls, Northern Montana College, Chester High School, Tip Top Tavern, Liberty County Hospital and Nursing Home, and Capital High School. Diane brought to the library world numerous KSA's (that's knowledge, skills and abilities for those of you who are not working on position descriptions) as well as a wonderful caring, loyal, hard working work ethic.

Diane was born and raised in Chester, Montana. When or if Diane gets tired with the library world, she turns her attention to 1) her family – a great group of people – that we love to keep up to date on: Amy (her beautiful daughter), Bill (a Dad of many talents), Marilyn (a Mother who tries not to say "I told you so")...and many more; 2) her church activities (she has a great singing voice); and 3) talented crafting of fantastic pendants from old watch parts, odds and ends, buttons, and/or parts of jewelry.